

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

Wednesday, 18 September 2013

332. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

With regard to the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme WA, I ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware of the claim of Mr Jock Mosquito, formerly from Warmun Community in the Kimberley and now living in a Frail Aged Home in Halls Creek, whose application to the WA Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme has been refused;
- (b) is the Minister aware that Mr Mosquito considers the decision to refuse his application for stolen wages while he was working on Nicholson Station, as grossly unjust;
- (c) if yes to (b), what is the Minister's view;
- (d) is the Minister further aware of Mr Mosquito's claim that at the time of his employment at Nicholson Station he was told by the then manager that he (the manager) had put money aside for him for the future but that he (Mr Mosquito) never received this money;
- (e) does the Minister consider such an action to be dishonest and fraudulent and can the Minister advise what action Mr Mosquito can take to seek justice;
- (f) does the Minister accept that the establishment of the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme raised the hopes of all Aboriginal people who were unpaid for the work they did, including former station workers, and that to exclude them from the scheme is discriminatory and unfair;
- (g) given the large number of former station workers who were denied their wages over a considerable length of time in the Kimberley and elsewhere, will the Minister now consider creating a new scheme aimed at addressing these claims; and
- (h) if no to (g), why not?

Answer

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The State Government's response to the issue of stolen wages was largely based on advice from the Stolen Wages Taskforce, which found that station workers' incomes were not controlled directly by Government and consequently, fall outside the scope of the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Application to the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme does not affect the legal rights of any applicant that may choose to pursue other courses of action.
- (f) No.
- (g) No.
- (h) Refer to (c).



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs